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2020-03-26 A Message from Chancellor Roth

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HEALTH SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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A Message from Chancellor Roth

Dear Colleagues:

As of this morning, the New Mexico Department of Health reports that 112 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, and nearly 7,800 tests have been administered statewide. These numbers change daily, however: for the latest updates, please visit the [New Mexico Department of Health website](#).

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on The University of New Mexico and the UNM Health Sciences Center. Tomorrow (Friday, March 27), I will join President Garnett S. Stokes, Provost James Holloway and Teresa Costantinidis, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration, for a virtual town hall to answer your questions about the University's response to the outbreak.

We really want to hear your concerns and promise to provide you with the most up-to-date information possible. Please see below for additional details on how to submit questions and dial in to the event.

Here are some additional updates:

- Individuals should NOT be purchasing supplies or PPE equipment on their own or with their personal credit cards. We have a dedicated supply chain, all procurement staff are working and the EOC is handling all purchases for PPE equipment. We will not reimburse individuals or departments if you go outside the established incident command structure and supply chain process. If you have an identified need or source, speak to your supervisor who will send the request to the emergency operations center (EOC).

- The EOC has provided some additional clarification on the many inquiries received about mask donations from the community. For the safety of individuals, we are currently not accepting homemade masks. We are evaluating industry mask donations on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure we provide adequate protection for the safety of our staff. Please send any offers or information about possible donated supplies to unmheoc@salud.unm.edu, and we will contact the donor and evaluate whether the offered supplies meet guidelines.
- We continue to reevaluate the PPD guidance and have our hospital Epidemiologist reviewing the latest guidance from the CDC, WHO and others to ensure you are taken care of and protected.
- Suspensions in hiring staff – Because there is so much uncertainty in the financial future of the state, the university is suspending all staff hires at this time. If you have a critical hiring need you will need to make a request to move forward with this hire. [You can read more about this here.](#)
- We are UNM Strong – I want to continue to thank each of you for your hard work and dedication during this time. I know many of you are now the only person in your home earning a paycheck as the private sector has seen incredible and unprecedented layoffs recently. We are not laying off employees at UNM, we care deeply for you and your families, and we will get through this together.

These circumstances pose tremendous uncertainties for all of us. We worry whether a loved one – or ourselves – might contract the illness. We could be experiencing anxiety about our financial well-being.

While many of the things that will affect us are out of our control, each of us do have control over our own behavior. What will clearly reduce the likelihood of any of us contracting coronavirus is our following the public health recommendations to stay at home, social distance when we must leave our homes, and wash our hands regularly.

But I would urge you to resist the impulse to engage in catastrophic thinking. All any of us can do at the moment is to plan prudently and then focus on responding as best we can to whatever challenge is at hand. One day at a time, we will get through this.

Warm regards,



Paul B. Roth, MD, MS
Chancellor for Health Sciences
CEO, UNM Health System
Dean, UNM School of Medicine



You are invited to join UNM President Garnett S. Stokes and members of University leadership at a virtual Lobo community town hall, where panelists will answer questions and provide the most recent and up-to-date information on how UNM is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The town hall will be held on Friday, March 27 at 12:00 p.m.

President Stokes will be joined by: James Holloway, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Paul Roth, Chancellor and Executive President for Health Sciences; Teresa Costantinidis, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration; and other administrators and health professionals to support answering your questions.

Submit questions for the panel

Submit your questions to the panel in advance by [completing this survey](#). The questions will be aggregated by category and addressed during the town hall. Please try to have questions submitted by Friday, March 27 at 9 a.m.; the University will continue to review and provide answers to questions or issues that have not been addressed.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions via Zoom during the session, using the Q & A function. The town hall will be recorded and posted on the [UNM President's website](#) and the [UNM COVID-19 website](#). Please note that the information and guidance discussed in this town hall is constantly changing. Therefore, you should continue to check the [UNM COVID-19 website](#) for updates.

Zoom webinar invitation

When: Mar 27, 2020 12:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: UNM Community Town Hall: COVID-19 Pandemic Updates, Information and Q&A

Please click this link to join the webinar: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/568129772>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +13462487799,,568129772# or +16699006833,,568129772#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 568 129 772

[International numbers are available here.](#)

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Zoom Mobile Apps: [iTunes](#) / [Google](#)

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